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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,158	12/10/2001	William H. Wall	W6-19a	2016

7590 02/12/2003

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ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER	
CHATTOPADHYAY, URMI	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

/

Offic Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	10/006,158	WALL, WILLIAM H.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Urmi Chattopadhyay	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: it appears that on page 3, line 11, "according-like" should be changed to --accordian-like--. Appropriate correction is required.

3. The abstract is objected to. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

→ The word "said" on line 7 is legal phraseology that must be deleted.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- ✓ a. On lines 3 and 5, "per cutaneously" should be changed to --percutaneously--.
- ✓ b. On line 6, "cyclindrical" should be changed to --cylindrical--.
- ✓ c. On line 7, "lightly" should be changed to --slightly--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

→ 6. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the inner surface" in line 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

✓ 7. Claim 1 is indefinite because on line 4, the limitation of "having an unexpanded diameter" is used to describe only the second end. It appears from the specification that it is the structural frame that has an unexpanded diameter smaller than the diameter of the blood vessel.

Examiner suggests inserting --and-- after "end" on line 4 to clarify.

✓ 8. Claim 1 is indefinite because it is unclear what "prior to use" means. Does it mean prior to insertion into the blood vessel or prior to expansion? Applicant must clarify.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

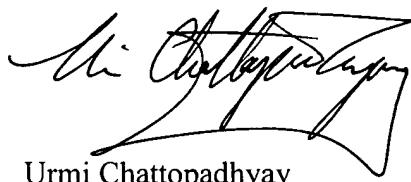
10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clouse (USPN 5,211,658) in view of Lam (USPN 5,556,413).

Clouse discloses a blood vessel wall-defining device for repairing an aneurysm having all the claimed elements of claim 1, except for the ring stents and their respective limitations. See abstract for a structural frame being a combination of Figure 1 (structural skeleton 30) and Figure 2 (tubular membrane 40) and for the structural frame having a smaller unexpanded diameter and a larger expanded diameter than the blood vessel. See Figure 2 the structural frame (combination of 30 and 40) including a plurality of longitudinal support rods (46) being attached to a tubular sheath (41) for at least a portion thereof. Lam teaches a coiled stent having controlled expansion that can be locked into an expanded diameter in order to prevent collapse of the stent. See Figures 5A-5C and column 7, lines 15-28. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to look to the teachings of Lam to modify the blood vessel wall-defining device of Clouse by replacing the expandible spring coil (48) disposed on the interior of the tubular sheath (41) with a plurality of the ratcheted ring stents of Lam in order to have controlled expansion of the device along the longitudinal length of the device in addition to preventing the device from collapsing.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Urmi Chattopadhyay whose telephone number is (703) 308-8510 and whose work schedule is Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 6:30pm with every other Friday off. The examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, may be reached at (703) 308-2111. The group receptionist may be reached at (703) 308-0858.

Should the applicant wish to send a fax for official entry into the file wrapper the Group fax number is (703) 305-3590. Should applicant wish to send a fax for discussion purposes only, the art unit fax number is (703) 308-2708.

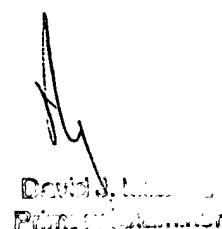


Urmi Chattopadhyay

Art Unit 3738

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February 7, 2003



David J. Hall
Priority Examiner